

Message Text

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67

ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00

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TO USMISSION GENEVA

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, SZ

SUBJECT: HONG KONG -- EC TEXTILE AGREEMENT

REF: HONG KONG 10900

FOR PHELAN

1. REFTEL IS MOST USEFUL AND INFORMATIVE. IT ALSO REINFORCES SOME OF OUR SUSPICIONS AS TO EXACTLY HOW QUOTE LIBERAL UNQUOTE THE EC HAS BEEN -- AND IS GOING TO BE -- IN BRINGING ITS BILATERAL AGREEMENTS INTO CONFORMITY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH MFA ARTICLE 2.

2. ONE OF OUR CONCERNS IS THAT THE SORT OF PROBLEM HK NOW FACES IN PARA 3 REFTEL WILL RESULT IN HK DIVERTING SOME OF ITS BLOCKED EC TRADE TO U.S. MARKET WITH THE NET EFFECT OF THE U.S. TAKING MORE OF HK TEXTILE EXPORTS THAN WOULD HAVE BEEN THE CASE HAD THE EC GIVEN HK SOME BREATHING ROOM. THIS IS OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO US IN SOME OF MAN-MADE

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FIBER KNITTED OUTERWEAR CATEGORIES WHERE THE IMPORT

IMPACT HAS BEEN ESPECIALLY SEVERE.

3. WE ARE MORE CONCERNED WITH PARA 14 OF ARTICLE 4 OF THE EC/HK AGREEMENT WHICH REPORTEDLY INCLUDES WITHIN THE RESTRAINT COVERAGE (AND QUOTAS) PRODUCTS SIMILAR TO TEXTILE PRODUCTS. UK HK REP HERE (HERMAN) ADVISES US THAT HE IS BAFFLED BY THIS PARA AND THAT TO DATE HE IS UNABLE TO OBTAIN ANY CLARIFICATION FROM HKG. OUR CONCERN IS, OF COURSE, THAT THE EC HAS SUCCEEDED IN BRINGING NON TEXTILE PRODUCTS (AS DEFINED IN MFA) WITHIN A TEXTILE RESTRAINT AGREEMENT. IF TRUE, U.S. DOMESTIC INDUSTRY REACTIONS LEAVE LITTLE TO THE IMAGINATION. BASED ON ANY CLARIFICATIONS YOU CAN OBTAIN FROM DORWARD ON PRECISELY WHAT THAT PARA MEANS, WE WOULD BE ABLE TO DETERMINE WHAT OUR REACTION SHOULD BE, AND WHETHER WE SHOULD MAKE ANY PROTEST IN APPROPRIATE TEXTILE FORUM. INGERSOLL

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